

COMMUNICATIONS.

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A Trip to the East—Scenes and Thoughts by the Way.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 3, 1872.
To the Editor of the New National Era:
Agreeably to my promise in a previous letter, I resume the account of my August tour.

Leaving Cape May, I returned to Philadelphia, where I remained a day and more, and then started for New York. This time I indulged myself to a seat in one of those magnificent parlor cars which are run between Philadelphia and New York. Although I have previously spoken so harshly of traveling by rail, when in an ordinary car, the transportation was so delightful, that I was forced to exclaim with the poet Saxe—
"Bless me this is pleasant
A riding on a rail."

I don't mean to tell "what I know about farming," (which isn't much), but I will say that I have been in some twenty States and Territories of the Union and I have never seen a finer agricultural district than that surrounding Philadelphia—if one may be permitted to judge from a rapid ride through it. A three hours' ride brings us to that centre of activity, the metropolis of the New World, New York. But I do not stop here. I jump into a cab and the expert driver wends his winding way through a multitude of vehicles, amid inexplicable din and confusion, where a less experienced one would require hours or perhaps be crushed in the endeavor, and brings me in a few minutes to the dock of the Fall River line of steamers. That magnificent floating palace, the Bristol, having been disabled by a recent accident, I took passage on the steamer "Old Colony," which is likewise a splendid affair. It is a grand sight, as one moves down the harbor, to see the immense shipping, representing every quarter of the globe. And then, to view that great city from a distance, taking in nearly its whole circumference at a glance, what thoughts will rise of mingled pride and pain! Think of the million souls, with their diversified histories, which all find their habitation there. There are the freshest pinks of purity and the saddest wrecks of humanity. There is wealth, education, refinement, benevolence, and there is ignorance, want, woe, and vice in extreme degree. New York is a world in itself.

The trip up Long Island Sound is a pleasant one. The cool breeze we encountered was a delightful contrast to the torrid heat of the main land. The sound was calm, and the clear moonlight night was rendered transcendently beautiful by the constant flickering of the aurora borealis in a manner I had never before witnessed, while the steamer glided smoothly and almost noiselessly along.

I must mention a distinguished person who happened to be on board. I had noticed standing near me on the upper deck, before supper, a man with a rather clerical suit of black and a common straw hat on, whom I took to be a genteel Irishman. What aided in this impression was that the lady with him, who proved to be his wife, was such a little, home-spun body, and so plainly attired. Upon going below to supper, I saw this same gentleman and lady carelessly standing awaiting their turn to get into the dining room. Before, when I had seen him with his hat on, and had observed him but slightly, I only thought he was very intelligent-looking. (at all events for an Irishman.) I had never seen that plain, unassuming man before; but now, as he stood with his hat off, disclosing his whole physique, although surprised, I assured myself in an instant. His image was so impressed on my mind, he was so like the portrait I had been accustomed to seeing in a window on Pennsylvania avenue, that I felt I could not be mistaken. I turned and looked again. Yes, it was that humane man, that Christian philosopher and philanthropist, that eloquent preacher, the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. And thus I saw, by accident, the man whom I would have walked miles to see.

I arrived in Newport about four in the morning, and it was in vain that I applied to every hotel in the place for accommodations, for they were completely full. This left two alternatives: one, to sit up in the office until morning in readiness to take the first train that might be vacated; the other, to take refuge at a boarding-house. I chose the latter.

Mr. George T. Downing is one of the influential men of Newport, and one of my first duties was to call on him. The Downings are noted for their hospitality, and during my short stay I was favored with a full share of it. Industrious and shrewd, Mr. Downing has amassed a fortune, owning much valuable property in Newport. Indefatigable and public-spirited as ever, Mr. D. is alive to the political situation. Although he has been a life-long political and personal friend and follower of Charles Sumner, I found him on the eve of sending off for publication a newspaper for General Grant. I happened in Newport just in time to join a party of friends—residents and visitors—in an excursion to Rocky Point. This is a beautiful spot, half-way between Newport and Providence, and commanding a fine view of Narragansett Bay. The place is an illustration of that completeness with which New England people do whatever they undertake. It is fitted up for the exclusive purpose of affording people a pleasant resort during the hot days of the summer season. It contains everything calculated to make it entertaining and comfortable. A cage of monkeys affords ample sport in watching the ludicrous antics; or, if more philosophically inclined, it presents a good opportunity for the study of the Darwinian theory. They have here a soda-water-drinking beer, which is trained to open the bottles with his paws. And there are also a dance hall, bowling alleys, miniature horses for children to ride, a dining-room, an ice-cream saloon, and an observatory, together with facilities for bathing and fishing. Here I witnessed a regular New England clam-bake, and participated in the picnicarian feast, which comprised baked clams, clam-chowder, fish, green corn, and Boston brown bread. Any one who visits that section would do well to spend a day at Rocky Point.

Newport, as is well known, is the aristocratic watering place of the country, containing, perhaps, more solid wealth than any other. Here millionaires are plenty, and it is a sight to see them riding by in the afternoons, bedecked with finery. It seems a misnomer to call the dwellings cottages, some of which are the most elegant mansions. Newport has no equal for the number and excellence of its drives. The beach there is an inferior one; but Newport is appropriately described

by the appellation it has received of "the Eden of America."

From Newport I went to Boston. Boston! How I love the very name! A name dear to every true American heart; for was it not "there where American liberty raised its first voice, and where its youth was nurtured and sustained?" I cannot express the gratification I felt on reaching Boston, the place, above all others, I had longed to see. It was the realization of my infant dreams to stand on the spot of my country's origin, with all its memories clustering around it.

It was superfluous to descend upon the perplexing irregularities of the streets, for every one who has ever heard of Boston knows of that. They are like the wind "which bloweth where it listeth, and no man can tell whence it cometh nor whither it goeth." Boston abounds in objects of interest and historic note, each of which is in itself an ample theme for volumes, but which I may barely touch. Almost the first thing which nearly everybody who goes to Boston wants to see, is the Common, of which they have heard so much. Many who have their expectations raised too high, are disappointed in it. It is simply what its name would indicate—a large square, inclosed by an iron fence, and free of access at all times and to all classes. It is very plain, being intersected by numerous walks and well supplied with shade trees. The celebrated old elm tree, which has stood the storms of centuries still stands in the Common, and is guarded with tender care. Opposite the Common is a more modern institution, the Public Garden, which is just about as beautiful as art and flowers can make it. In the centre of the Garden is a pond promiscuously dotted with swans and pleasure boats, while a beautiful bridge arches it over. The walks are admirably laid out, and the flowers tastefully arranged. It contains several statues, among which is one to Dr. Morton, the discoverer of ether, and another—a bronze statue—of that gifted sentence-monger, Edward Everett. But there is no rose without a thorn, and the great thorn of the Garden at this time are the unmerciful mosquitoes, which actually drove me away. The boundary of the Common on one side is Beacon street, one noted for containing more magnificent residences than any other street in the country. As one rides along for a mile or two he sees nothing but an unbroken succession of lofty brown stone mansions on either side. The solid elegance, the massive grandeur of that locality really beggars description.

Chester Square is another locality remarkable for its fine residences. In that vicinity the houses are mainly "swell front," which is a very prevalent style in Boston. In the private library of a gentleman living in Chester Square, which was almost equal to a public library in size, while it was much choicer, I saw, besides other literary curiosities, some of the original manuscripts of Robert Burns and Sir Isaac Newton.

I took great pleasure in riding about those beautiful suburban towns surrounding Boston—Chelsea, Cambridge, Charlestown, &c.—so familiar in name, though new to me. Many of the old landmarks still remain in Boston, while others have given way under the inexorable behests of progress. The old State House still stands; but the Brattle-street Church, a cherished relic of the Revolution, which stood so long with the ball which was imbedded in its wall by a British cannon during the bombardment of Charlestown, is being torn down to give place to a more stately edifice.

When I stood in Faneuil Hall I seemed to feel the sentiment of love of country kindle anew. The very atmosphere of the place imparted aspiration. I could but feel for the place which had rung with the eloquence of such a long line of patriot orators as that from Otis and Adams down to Webster, Choate, Phillips, and Sumner. Nor can one pass by Bunker Hill as by an ordinary spot—a spot sanctified by the first blood of the Revolution. And when I looked aloft to the top of that stately monument there I felt that the eloquent exhortation of Webster had been fulfilled. I refer to that sublime passage where he said: "Let it rise till it meet the sun in his coming; let the earliest light of morning gild it, and the departing day linger and play upon its summit."

Socially I had a fine time in Boston. During my ten days' sojourn, besides evening entertainments, I attended two picnics, at all of which I met the Washington belle, Miss Genevieve Fleet, who, if possible, shone with more than her ordinary brilliancy. At the more general gatherings there were many handsome ladies; but female beauty is much more scarce in Boston than in most of the Southern cities. What is known as the first circle in colored society in Boston is small, but correspondingly select. I am deeply indebted for much of my enjoyment there to Messrs. Howard Williams and H. C. Wilson, and I should be ungrateful if I failed to acknowledge the many kindnesses of Messrs. Marsh, Fleet, Francis, and McClain. But I was most happy and fortunate in meeting in Boston my accomplished friend, Mr. Richard T. Greener, of Philadelphia. Besides many other places, we visited together Harvard University, of which he is a distinguished graduate, the Public Library, and the "Athenaeum." Always a most genial and instructive companion, on these occasions he was almost indispensable; for the pleasure and profit of those visits would have been lost without him. At the Athenaeum he appeared to admirable advantage in his comments and criticisms of its contents, his great knowledge of book and art enabling him to adorn his explanations with the appropriate allusions of the classic poets to the deities and persons represented by the statues to be found in the Athenaeum; or even in some cases to the statues themselves, for some of them are the most ancient works. There is something in the air of that place which betokens culture of the highest order. Many authors resort to this place to read and consult authorities.

From Boston I returned to Washington by way of Albany in order to have a daylight ride down the Hudson river. I shall never forget the magnificent scenery bordering on the banks of that beautiful river, which is worthy a much more extended notice than my limits will admit. As you descend, first you see the gentle hills, then the Catskill mountains rising in the distance, with a belt of green foliage in the foreground; further along the river the highland which surround West Point, and, lastly, are seen the remarkably beautiful palisades. The air was so cool as to bring overcoats into requisition.

The party with me, as well as myself, were much amused and disgusted in watching the pompous pretensions of some of the colored dwellers on the boats, which were very aptly illustrated that passage from Shakespeare—
"Oh, proud man, dressed in a little brief authority,
Most ignorant of what he's most assured;
Cuts such fantastic capers below the sun,
As make the angels weep."

Recovered by the month's recreation, I resumed my duties promptly on my return to Washington; and I shall always bear a fond remembrance of this, my first trip through the East.

H. O. WAGONER, JR.

The Colored Men.

Mass Convention in New England.
At Boston, on Thursday, the 5th inst., was held the second mass convention of the colored citizens of the New England States. Mr. George T. Downing, of Newport, Rhode Island, as presiding officer, assembled at Tremont Temple in 1857 or 1858, to deliberate upon an important matter which was claiming public attention, viz: "African civilization," &c. &c. The convention was held in the afternoon, and was attended by a large number of delegates from the various States. The convention was held in the afternoon, and was attended by a large number of delegates from the various States. The convention was held in the afternoon, and was attended by a large number of delegates from the various States.

Wednesday evening representatives in fair numbers began to arrive from New Bedford, Springfield, Worcester, Hartford, and other cities, and Thursday forenoon large accessions were constantly coming from Salem, Lynn, and other places near and far. Some were delegates from New York. While some of the delegates stopped at the hotels, others were entertained at private houses. Though not a regular delegate convention, many were present with credentials.

The feature of the affair was the speech of Fred. Douglass, who defended his support of President Grant for re-election. His best points were in regard to the Democratic party, although it did not attempt the repeal of the constitutional amendments, would not pass the appropriate legislation necessary to their enforcement.

The convention was called to order at 12 o'clock by Charles E. Pinckney, Secretary of the Committee of Arrangements, and Mr. George L. Ruffin, a colored lawyer, was chosen temporary chairman. He made a brief and eloquent address. Mr. Mitchell, of the colored press, then organized, then reported the following list of permanent officers, which was unanimously adopted:

President—Chas. Lenox Remond, of Boston.
Vice Presidents—George L. Downing, of Newport, Rhode Island; J. Crawford, of Eastport, Maine; George L. Ruffin, of Boston; J. L. Smith, of Hartford, Connecticut; J. J. Smith, of Boston; W. W. Brown, of Worcester; William C. Nell, of Boston; Walter C. Burr, of Norwich, Connecticut; Charles L. Mitchell, of Boston, and seventy others from different States.

Secretaries—Charles E. Pinckney, of Boston; Horace J. Gray, of Cambridgeport; Manuel Sullivan, of New Bedford; Nathaniel G. Cutler, of Lynn; W. H. Montague, of Springfield, and Robert Johnson, of Cambridge.

THE RESOLUTIONS.
The following series of resolutions were then adopted, after discussion:
Resolved, That we hereby testify of the Republican party that its origin, its antecedents, the head and heart attributes of its prominent champions, have made valid its claims to the title of the party of freedom, whose mission mainly is to secure equality before the law for those hitherto outcast.

Resolved, That we earnestly submit that its brilliant record of success in these efforts impels us to the utterance that, potent indeed as are its claims of respect and gratitude upon colored Americans, it is to secure equality to us that the most practical and earliest method to secure a victorious termination of the struggle for our rights, is to continue working shoulder to shoulder with those who have been and still continue helping.

Resolved, That all candid minds must admit that the nation's advance, since the days of active rebellion, has been constant and satisfactory; and now, having escaped the shoals and quicksands of treason and secession, and within sight of port, if there are those on board who would conspire against the commanding officers of the ship of State, God forbid that any of the members should be colored Americans.

Resolved, That we regard the sentiment now prevalent in the arena of discussion, "The North and South shaking hands over the bloody chalice," coming from whatever quarter it may, as premature. Let the parties first bring forth fruits meet for repentance, and none shall be before us in extending forgiveness for past ages of persecution and oppression heaped Olympus high upon us and those identified with us by complicity in the crime of rebellion. Let the unanimity does not consist in making love pats upon the tiger who but crouches to spring at our throats for a death embrace.

Resolved, That it is now a self-evident fact that the main purposes of those arrayed against the present Administration find expression in the motto, "Anything but Grant"—equivalent to "determine to place in power those men who would reverse the hand upon the dial plate of reform, and whose advent would furnish unbounded satisfaction to Jefferson Davis and his satellites, North and South; and we have learned that the only way to defeat this class argues no good to the Republic.

Resolved, That while we tender the homage of grateful hearts to the brilliant galaxy of freedom's defenders and orators, treasuring the recollection of their many words and deeds in our behalf, we trust no charge of ingratitude will come from the lips of the South, for we should on this occasion make significant allusion to those whom it is no unmeaning term to designate as a glorious triad.

Resolved, That our anxieties are soled, our hopes encouraged, and our determinations strengthened by the assurance that, in defining our position, we have the aid and approval of that veteran pioneer and persistent advocate of universal emancipation who, in 1831, declared himself in earnest, and that he would be heard in opposition to slavery, and whose lifelong devotion to the cause has been confirmed by his pledge—William Lloyd Garrison, who, whose culture and varied gifts, whose Damascus blade of eloquence, have been a contribution of priceless value, whose white plume, like that of Henry IV., is always seen at that point where the blows fall thick and fast in our defense, and who, when advocating humanity's cause, seconded by celestial fire—Wendell Phillips; of the other, whose standpoint of experience and observation has rendered him of potent authority on the various questions relating to slavery and freedom; whose record of service with voice and sword, whose, when serving leaders among colored men, discouraged their enlistments in the Union army until, in advance, they were furnished with officers' commissions, with his bugle blatted to arms recruits from the East and the West, and whose, in the South, sufficient numbers to insure success against the foe; whose noble defense of General Grant against complicated and high-sounding charges merits our admiration and esteem; indeed, the man for the hour—Frederick Douglass.

Resolved, That we extend the hand of greeting and cordial sympathy to our brethren of the South, who have been overawed by the Ku-Klux—as in the State of Arkansas, which cost the lives of several hundred colored men, and the election of Gen. Grant in 1868—and assure them of our daily increasing faith that the success of the Republican party next November will guarantee to them the protection due to every American citizen.

Resolved, That the patriotic devotion exhibited by the colored people of North Carolina, in their recent State election, has secured the triumph of Republican principles throughout the country, and entitles them to be regarded as the advance guard of the army of freedom.

Resolved, That we hail with joy the tidings reaching us from all parts of the country of the unity of sentiment that is entertained and will be manifested by the colored vote given for the nominees of the Republican party, and we urge upon all and each, by every tie of patriotism and loyalty, by every tie of friendship and affection, that we should be the "soldier firm, the statesman pure," to leave no word unsaid, no service omitted, but to consecrate every influence within reach to place in the Presidential chair the next four years General Ulysses S. Grant; and by the Union, in the nomination of Horatio

the thronging memories of many long years of labor in Congress and elsewhere that Senator who, as our political monitor, protected us from all encroachments of the colored voters of New England; one instance of whose inspiration now wells up in our memory—that of a colored voter, Henry Emery, of Cambridge, who, thus promoted, insisted upon leaving his sick bed that he might vote in person, and that he might live his last hours breathing his last, satisfied with this effort—his legacy to his colored brethren. Such are among the wreaths of honor we place on the brow of our present Senator, and count upon your votes accordingly for the colored man, Henry Emery, of Cambridge. Let us cherish the names of these patriots, hailing them as stars which, now shining on our horizon, will soon usher in a glorious dawn. By following their precepts in our intercourse with society we shall so water and nourish the tree of American liberty that our children's children may sport under its shade and all pluck fruit from its bending branches.

The passage of the resolutions excited great applause.

President Grant, extolling his past course and expressing a hope for his reelection, was then presented and discussed by Frederick Douglass and others.

FRED. DOUGLASS' ADDRESS.
Mr. Douglass said: I regret somewhat this call upon me at this time for a speech. As most of you are aware, I have been busy prosecuting the political campaign during the last three weeks in the State of Maine, speaking often twice a day, traveling in all directions, and, I am sure, now after having ridden all night, I am unfitted to respond in a becoming manner to the warm and urgent call made upon me at this moment. It seems only a few weeks, or at most a few months ago, since I appeared in company with William Lloyd Garrison, Francis Jackson, Mr. Quincy, and others, at the distinguished citizens of this great city, for the purpose of receiving

AN ADDRESS SIGNED BY DANIEL O'CONNELL.
Father Mathew, and 60,000 Irishmen calling upon the American people to make themselves consistent with the Declaration of Independence and put down slavery forever. That is now, short as the time seems to me, thirty years ago. Then the most sanguine did not dare to hope to live to see the day which we now see. I certainly did not dream that it would ever be my privilege to address in Faneuil Hall a convention of colored citizens convened from all parts of New England for the purpose of canvassing the policy of public men and public measures, and to take part in the selection of a platform, and in the support of those measures.

I have appeared in Faneuil Hall quite often; sometimes as a slave, sometimes as a fugitive slave, always as an advocate of human liberty. But this is the first time I have been permitted to appear here in the somewhat dignified, I may say almost

SUBLINE POSITION OF THE AMERICAN CITIZEN.

[Applause.] Look where you will over this wide, wide world of ours, and where is the country which a man has a right to be so proud of as this same Republic of ours? Where is there a citizenship so desirable, so exalted, endowed with more sublime attributes than the citizenship of the United States? Nowhere. And yet, this is the people in the world, with one or two exceptions, that have devolved upon us the duties of self-government. France has it not; England has it not in any such sense as we have it; Austria, Russia, Prussia, no country on the globe, has it to the same extent as we have it. And yet, this is the people in the world, with one or two exceptions, that have devolved upon us the duties of self-government. France has it not; England has it not in any such sense as we have it; Austria, Russia, Prussia, no country on the globe, has it to the same extent as we have it. 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